REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 18, 19, 20, and 28 have been amended in this paper.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner has objected to Claims 19 and 20 as lacking antecedent basis. These claims have been corrected. The amendments to these claims do not narrow the scope of the claims.

DOUBLE PATENTING

The Examiner has objected to Claims 24 and 25 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1 and 2 of U.S. Patent No. 6,668,240 in view of Henderson. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection but, in the interest of expediting prosecution of the application to allowance, have filed a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) contemporaneously with this paper.

The Examiner has also rejected Claims 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming the same invention is that of Claims 7 and 8 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,668,240. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and note that Claim 28 has been amended to remove the limitation of "via a communication network." Accordingly, Claims 29 and 30 are broader than Claims 7 and 8 of the '240 patent, and therefore do not claim the "same invention" as Claims 7 and 8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,668,240. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 23, 26-28, 31 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Regennitter et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,278,841). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In order for the rejection of Claims 23, 26-28, 31 and 32 to be proper, each and every limitation in the claims must be shown in the prior art. Regensitter et al., however, fails to teach each and every element. Specifically, Regensitter et al. fails to disclose a food product index.

As defined by Webster's Third New International Dictionary (relevant pages attached hereto), "index," given its ordinary meaning in light of the context in which it is used in the claims, means "a ratio or other number derived from a series of observations and used as an indicator or measure, as of a condition, property, or phenomena." Regennitter et al. does not teach a food product index, but the Examiner cites the condition of the food in the frozen food display cases as disclosure by Regennitter et al. of a food product index. States the Examiner: "Since the food condition is dependent upon temperature, it is a food product index (Col. 1, lines 11-24)." This is not, however, a food product index—a ratio or other number derived from a series of observations—but simply the condition of the food.

Applicants are confused by the Examiner's continued reliance on the condition of the food in the frozen display cases as teaching a food product index, according to its plain English meaning, and particularly as evidenced by the cited dictionary definition. For example, the Examiner's reliance on the condition of the food in the frozen display cases becomes nonsensical when applying the Examiner's rejection to Claims 26 and

31, which include initiating an alarm when the food product index exceeds a predetermined level. Does that mean that Regennitter et al. teaches initiating an alarm when the condition of the food, i.e., the food product index, in the frozen display cases, achieves a certain condition, such as thawed? No, Regennitter et al., in fact, teaches initiating an alarm at an alarm unit when the temperature reaches a certain preset point. See Col. 3, lines 55-62. There is no disclosure in Regennitter et al. that an alarm will sound based on a food product index because the condition of the food in the freezer unit is not a food product index. In fact, the condition of the food in the freezer unit is immaterial in Regennitter because the alarm sounds when temperature reaches a preset point.

In summary, Applicants fail to understand the Examiner's reliance on the condition of the frozen food in the frozen food display cases as a food product index. Applicants strongly disagree with the Examiner's interpretation of Regennitter et al., and restate that the frozen condition of the frozen foods cannot be considered to be a food product index; frozen food is simply frozen food and not an index. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-5, 18, 21 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Brien (U.S. Pat. No. 4,024,495) in view of Chiu et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,604,871). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 18 recite a food product manager determining a food product index where refrigerated product is a function of the frequency and severity of the product

temperature condition information. O'Brien and Chiu et al. fail to teach determination of a food product index, particularly as discussed above with respect to Regennitter et al.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Brien in view of Chiu et al. as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of Tershak et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the reasons stated above with respect to O'Brien and Chiu et al., and further state that Tershak et al. fails to cure the deficiencies as noted above with respect to those references.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Brien in view of Chiu et al. as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of Nioras. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the reasons stated above with respect to O'Brien and Chiu et al., and further state that Nioras fails to cure the deficiencies noted above.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 7, 8, 11-14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Brien in view of Chiu et al. as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of Starling et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the reasons stated above with respect to O'Brien and Chiu et al., and further state that Starling et al. fails to cure the deficiencies noted above.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants thank the Examiner for noting the allowable subject matter of Claims 6, 9, 10, 15 and 17, but have decided to forego rewriting those claims in independent form in view of the amendments and remarks made above.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.

Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303

Bv

Michael Malinzak, Reg. No.

(248) 641-1600

MM/ca

P.O. Box 828

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in-dependable \in+\ adj ['ln- + dependable] : UNDEPEND

condition of being indentured (completed the three years of his \$\infty\$ In-dependable \(\) in+\\ adj \(\) in-\ dependable \(\) in+\\ adj \(\) in-\ dependable \(\) in-\ de

with another statement (an ~ proposition in logic) by a see FREE
2independent \"\ n 1 usu cap: an adherent of Independency
2: one that is independent (free-lance artists and other ~s)
(large corporations and the smaller ~s); esp: one that is not bound by or definitively committed to a political party (one third of the voters classify themselves as ~s ~E.S.Griffith) independent audit n: an audit made by usu, professional auditors who are wholly independent of the company where the audit is being made — contrasted with internal audit independent baptist n, usu cap I&B: a member of a pacifist Baptist sect organized in 1927 independent chuck n: a chuck for holding work by means of four jaws that may be moved separately independent component n: a component in a physical-chemical system that may be varied without fixing the condition of the system

independent contractor n: one that contracts to do work or perform a service for another and that retains total and free control over the means or methods used in doing the work or performing the work.



independing adj [in- + depending (pres. part. of depend)] obs : INDEPENDENT in-deprivable] archaic: INALIEN

Indeprivable \in+\adj['ln-+ deprivable] archaic: INALENABLE
In-der-bo-rite \indar'bō,rīt, -bō, \n -s [Russ inderborit, fr. Lake Inder, Kazakhstan, U.S.S.R., its locality + Russ bor+-lt-lt-lt-l a mineral CaMgBo_11.11H_2O consisting of a hydrous borate of calcium and magnesium
In-der-ite \indar'it\ n -s [Russ inderit, fr. Lake Inder, Kazakhstan, U.S.S.R., its locality + Russ -it-ite]: a mineral Mg2Bo_11.51H_2O consisting of a hydrous borate of magnesium
In-describability \in+\ n 1; the quality or state of being indescribable \text{\text{"1-h}} + \nd \text{\text{ind}} \text{\text{ind}} + \nd \text{\text{ind}} \text{\text{ord}} \text{\text{ind}} \text{\text{ord}} \text{\tex

proposition in logic)
2indesignate \"\n-s: an indesignate term or proposition in

In-determinate (**) in the n indeterminate (**) indeterminate of (**) indeterminate (**)

indeterminate form n: any of the seven undefined expressions $\frac{0}{0}$, $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$, $0 \cdot \infty$, $\infty - \infty$, 0° , ∞° , and 1°

that a mathematical function may assume by formal substitu

indeterminate growth n: growth in which a plant axis is not limited by development of a terminal flower bud or other reproductive structure and so continues to elongate indefinitely (as in racemose inflorescence) — compare Determinate

nitely (as in racemose inflorescence) — compare DETERMINATE GROWTH
Indeterminate sentence n: a punitive sentence that fixes the term or amount of punishment only within certain limits and leaves the exact term or amount of punishment to be determined by administrative authorities in-determination (in+\ n [indeterminate + -ion]: the quality or state of being indeterminate
in-determined \(\colonin\) in+\ ad \(\frac{1}{10n}\) the + determined \((\text{past}\) part.\) of determining \(\colonin\) in+\ ad \(\frac{1}{10n}\) the + determinism \(\colonin\)! Is a theory that the will is free and that deliberate choice and the action following such choice are not completely or not at all determined by or predictable from antecedent causes — compare DETERMINISM 2: the quality or state of being indeterminate; \(\sigma\); \(\colonin\) in the quality or state of being indeterminate; \(\sigma\); \(\colonin\) in determinism, after such pairs as \(\frac{1}{2}\) determinism: determinism: determinism: to relating to indeterminism.

indeterminism (a mere ~ account of the moral life —Alexander Darroch) in-devotion \in \ n [in- + devotion] archaic: lack of devo-



but independent of an interpretant (a bullet hole in a fence is an ~ that a shot has been fired) — contrasted with from and symbol 7 a: a list of restricted or prohibited or otherwise proscribed material (an ~ of forbidden books) b ssue ap: 1NDEX LIBRORUM PROHIBITION B pl usu Indicate: a number or symbol or expression written to the left or right of and above or below or otherwise associated with anothernumber or symbol or expression to indicate use or position in an arrangement or expansion or to indicate a mathematical operation to be performed (the Indices 2 and 3 used to locate the element a21 in the second row and third column of a determinant) (3 is the ~ in the expression \$\sqrt{5}\$ to specify a cube root of \$\gamma \text{or index mark: a charactert29 used to direct particular attention (as to a note or paragraph) and as the seventh in series of the reference marks—called \$\leftilde{a}\text{of first firs

index finger n 1; the digit next to the thu 2: INDEX 9 index forest n: a forest that in density, volume, and increment reaches the high-est average in a given locality index fossil n: a fossil that is usu, of nar-

volume, and increment reaches the highest average in a given locality index fossil n: a fossil that is usu, of narrow time range and wide spatial distribution and that is used in the identification of related geologic formations (as in locating new petroleum reserves) index glass n: the mirror on the index bar of a sextant or similar instrument index hand n: a pointer or hand for indicating something (as a teading on a dial): INDICATOR index head or indexing head n: a headstock attachable to the table of a milling machine, planer, or shaper on which work may be mounted by a chuck or centers for indexing index-ical \(\frac{1}{2} \) of checkspich, (\) indic\(\frac{1}{2} \) of \(\frac{1}{2} \) index head or resembling an index \(\sigma \cdot \cd

sinal areas in relation to a larger area and that typically points up special features in the small areas about which information index mark n: INDEX 9 index number n: a number used to indicate change in magnitude (as of cost, price, or volume of production) as compared with the magnitude at some specified time usu, taken as 100 (if the cost of an item in 1930 was one and one half as much as its cost in 1913, its index number, relative to 1913, was 150) (relative index numbers representing changes in price level of the purpose of converting fixed assets to current dollar values—Accountants Digest)—used esp. in statistics index of refraction: the ratio of the velocity of light or other radiation in the first of two media to its velocity in the second as it passes from one into the other, the first medium being usu, taken to be a vacuum—called also refractive index index percent n: the increase in value of a tree or of a forest due to the combined volume, quality, and price increments and expressed as an annual percent of its present value lindex plane also index horizon n; a surface (as the top of a sedimentary bed) used in working out geological structure index plate n: a graduated circular plate or one with circular rows of holes differently spaced that is used in machines (as for graduating circles or cutting gear teeth) index re-rum \(\frac{1}{2}\text{Firsym}\), pl indices rerum [NL, index of things]: an index of topics covered (as in a book) index species n: a plant or animal species so highly adapted to a particular kind of environment that its presence is sufficient indication that a habitat under investigation belongs to the kind to which the species is adapted.